



DISCOVER
Puerto Rico

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CLIPPINGS REPORT

April, 2021

OUTLET	KEY MESSAGING	MARKET	DATE	UMV CIRCULATION	AD VALUE/ EAV (USD)
International Travel Writers Alliance Bulletin	CRES turtle conservation ahead of World Earth Day	UK	12/04/2021	2,030	1,100
Crave Magazine Online	Best kept secret in the Caribbean	UK	21/04/2021	17,500	1,033
Noticias de Salud	Best kept secret in the Caribbean	Spain	21/04/2021	14,000	875
Epicurean Life	CRES turtle conservation ahead of World Earth Day	UK	22/04/2021	70,000	5,501
House of Coco	Best kept secret in the Caribbean	UK	23/04/2021	90,000	3,700
Culture Trip	Best beaches in Puerto Rico	UK	27/04/2021	18,000,000	6,200

OUTLET	KEY MESSAGING	MARKET	DATE	UMV CIRCULATION	AD VALUE/ EAV (USD)
Viestra Magazine	CRES turtle conservation	UK	27/04/2021	59,000	914
Viestra Magazine	Best kept secret in the Caribbean	UK	29/04/2021	59,000	1,113
TOTAL CLIPS: 8				TOTAL UMV: 18,311,530	TOTAL EAV: 19,803

Earth Day and responsible travel



The Appalachian Trail

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

First celebrated in 1970, it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.

www.earthday.org

In addition, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has called for a *responsible recovery of the tourism sector to balance the needs of people, the planet and prosperity.*

Experiences across the world that enable travellers to explore the very best of a destination whilst creating positive change for the environments and local communities includes :

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, from Maine to Georgia USA

The Appalachian Trail is the world's longest hiking-only footpath, which stretches across 3,500 kilometres and 14 states including Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Georgia.

Travellers looking to hike the trail can also take part in a range of conservancy initiatives.

Volunteers have the choice to take part in projects hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) team including joining resource forums or signing up for a five-day *Leave No Trace* course www.nps.gov/appa/index.htm and www.appalachiantrail.org/explore/plan-and-prepare/leave-no-trace



The notion of travelling responsibly stretches across a broad spectrum, from :

- a traveller reducing their carbon footprint; to taking part in a destination's conservation initiatives
- staying at an eco-resort, and
- building relationships with the locals and learning about the community and its culture.

Following an anti-poaching team in Namibia

Namibia was the first country in the continent to incorporate conservation into its constitution and today, over 43% of the country's surface area is under conservation management.

It has the largest quotient in the world of free-roaming animals including the rare black rhino, lion and zebra.

Namibia offers travellers opportunities to participate in wildlife conservation initiatives.

Those interested in anti-poaching methods and challenges can take the 14-day *Rhino Rangers* programme located in the 7,600-hectare Zannier Reserve.

Its the chance to join the anti-poaching unit on their patrols, master firearm skills, learn about navigation and tracking techniques and to discover the science of poaching itself.



After getting to grips with the challenges of living and surviving in the bush during the day, Rhino Rangers can rest surrounded by the sounds of nocturnal animal activity.

www.namibiatourism.com.na and www.naankuse.com/rhino-rangers



Care for coral reefs in Colombia

Spectacular coral reefs can be found in Colombia's warm Caribbean and Pacific waters, but without protection, these natural ecosystems face disruption and damage.

Coral reef research organisation Corales de Paz offers diving experiences with diving companies with divers enjoying the reef while working to monitor and re-weave corals.

They also collect plastics from the ocean bed.

During a field programme, visitors can spend four or five days in dive projects that monitor, survey and analyse the health of coral reefs to provide crucial insights into the protection of marine life.

Reef repair sessions teach divers innovative coral gardening methods, in which corals are generated in nurseries and transplanted into reefs to repair damaged areas.

Divers become 'coral reef citizen scientists', and are qualified to monitor and restore Colombia's coral reefs and record their findings in national and international databases.

Under the leadership of experienced coral reef scientists, divers can explore areas such as Providencia where Colombia's healthiest coral reef, which is the second largest in the Caribbean, can be found.

www.colombia.travel/en and www.coralesdepaz.org



Art and eco-innovation in Vienna

Vienna, an undoubted cultural hub of Europe is rich in history, music, art, culture and cuisine.

It is also one of the greenest cities in the world and a global hub for sustainability and innovation.

The Vienna Biennale for Change returns this summer with sustainability at its core and strapline *Planet Love: Climate Care in the Digital Age* (28 May to 3 October 2021).

The event will see a number of Viennese museums and galleries joining forces to shine a light on climate change and environmental protection.



Projects by artists, designers and architects will be showcased, with aims to spark imaginations, promote the vision of sustainable societies and economies, as well as offer innovative solutions for radical change.

www.wien.info/en and
www.mak.at/en/viennabiennale2021



Curated ecotourism in Rwanda

Rwanda's Gishwati-Makura protected reserve covers 8,400 acres with lush mist-covered forests, primates, waterfalls and native Umushwati trees.

Gishwati-Makura wasn't always so abundant and in the early 2000s, 98% of the woodland was diminished due to increased human settlement.

The local community, with the help of the *Forest of Hope Association*, undertook a major restoration effort to bring the area back to health and rewrite the forest.

Today, eastern chimpanzees, golden monkeys and side-striped jackals roam freely throughout the vegetation, amongst dozens of varieties of bats, frogs and birds.

Carefully curated ecotourism projects such as guided nature hikes, chimp and monkey tracking, bird watching and visits to the waterfalls have helped to fund conservation.



This also provides income and enrichment for the surrounding communities. There is the chance for travellers to Rwanda to help with the project.

Gishwati-Makura is a fine example of the impact that communities can have when they pull together, put the planet first and work to restore landscapes.

www.visitwanda.com and
www.fharwanda.org



The Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve in Ontario

Located in the Canadian forest, a three-hour drive from Toronto, visitors can discover grey wolves at the privately-owned 100,000 acre sustainable Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve.

As an apex predator, wolves serve to keep the ecosystem in balance, but over the years hunting and environmental impacts on their habitat have threatened this majestic animal.

The decline of wolf populations triggered the creation of the Wolf Centre at Haliburton, which aims to revive wolf pack numbers whilst educating locals and tourists alike about the importance of wolves within Ontario's ecology and to shift perceptions.

A resident wolf pack has lived in a seven acre enclosure within Haliburton Forest since 1993 and visitors may view the wolves from the Wolf Centre through one-way glass.



The centre also contains exhibits which tell the story of wolves and separates fact from fiction. Visitors have the chance to hear a wolf pack howl on guided walks during the summer months.

www.ontario-travel.blog and
www.haliburtonforest.com



Restoring alpine forestry in Trentino, Northern Italy

The mountainous forests of Trentino, northern Italy, are a crucial part of the Dolomites landscape and an enormous part of local heritage.

During a night of extremely bad weather in 2018, around four million cubic metres of trees were damaged or destroyed, proving devastating for mountain wildlife.

The *Trentino Tree Agreement* was formed to enable the public to play an active role in restoring forests.

Each donation works to plant and protect at least one sacred tree in Trentino's mountain valleys, a strategy which has already helped to rejuvenate the region's woodlands.

Forests are essential for life in Trentino as woodlands absorb carbon dioxide, increase biodiversity, counteract soil erosion and provide shade and shelter for wildlife.



Trentino also follows the golden rule of planting more trees than are used, so while hundreds of the region's mountain huts are made from local pine, care is taken to ensure that woodlands are sustainably managed and maintained.

www.visittrentino.info/en and
www.trentinotreeagreement.it



Protecting sea turtle habitats in Puerto Rico

Sandy beaches sit alongside vibrant cities in Puerto Rico as does the island's coastal capital San Juan.

Ensuring that there is a healthy balance between the city's innovative developments and essential natural conservation is something non for profit community organisation, CRES, is undertaking.

Committed to restoring and conserving the city's delicate ecosystems, CRES works to improve the wellbeing of San Juan's Santurce area, home to endangered sea turtles.

By neighbourhood reforestation and providing better habitats for rare species such as the leatherback turtle to live, visit or nest on the beach, CRES looks to protect them from the impacts of nearby city life.



A one-day workshop with CRES allows visitors to help with reforestation efforts, as well as educating them on how best to treat Puerto Rico's city-side beaches.

www.discoverpuertorico.com and www.crespr.org



Plastic waste is being tackled on the island of Mauritius

The waters and oceans surrounding Mauritius make the island a lure for tourists, but plastic waste is one of the biggest threats to natural ecosystems.

Precious Plastic Mauritius is a non-profit organisation that aims to create a recycling economy.

After collecting plastic waste from beaches and mangroves, *Precious Plastic Mauritius* melts it down to create useful products like sports equipment, phone cases and chairs that are sold.

The project employs locals in South-East Mauritius who have been affected by the pandemic and the Wakashio Oil Spill, providing vital income to the communities around Mauritius' Blue Bay.

Since plastic is versatile, easy to shape and quick drying, *Precious Plastic Mauritius* can easily create new, creative products that actually monetise waste, while protecting the ocean and supporting local communities.



www.mymauritius.travel and www.preciousplastic.mu



Leaving no trace in Arizona

Arizona's six diverse biomes range from desert to forest and from balmy to snowy, all in as little as 150 miles.

To protect the state's spectacular landscapes, the Arizona Office of Tourism has partnered with *Leave No Trace* to encourage sustainable, respectful tourism.

Following seven key principles, Arizona encourages visitors to leave areas just as they found them, with respect for wildlife, marked trails, and natural sites prioritised.

Part of Arizona's sustainable tourism strategy is dedicated to fire safety, since the natural lands are particularly vulnerable to wildfires.

Visitors must closely follow safety regulations, stick to designated campfire areas and heed area restrictions, where parks are closed in order to protect the trees.

With its abundance of natural beauty, visitor education and guidance is crucial for Arizona's preservation.

www.visitarizona.com and www.lnt.org



England's first hybrid energy ferry, Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight and its surrounding waters are one of six UK destinations recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



The Isle has been praised for having such a strong tradition of environmental action and Wightlink, the eco-friendly ferry service connecting the Island to the mainland, has invested £30 million in England's first hybrid energy ferry.

Victoria of Wight combines battery power with a conventional engine to use 17% less fuel than the next largest ship on the route.

Wightlink's Green Agenda works to increase recycling, replace plastic cutlery and cups with sustainable alternatives, reduce food miles by buying from Island suppliers, clean water surrounding ports.

It also monitors marine life as well as providing electric vehicle charging points at ports.

www.visitisleofwight.co.uk and www.wightlink.co.uk



- Rosie Bateman at rbateman@hillsbalfour.com



Visit Puerto Rico; The best kept secret in the Caribbean

Wednesday 21st Apr 2021 | [Travel](#)

With the US and a host of Caribbean islands tipped to make the 'green list', now is the perfect time for travellers to start planning a POST- LOCKDOWN escape to the sunny shores of Puerto Rico, an archipelago of islands packed with hidden gems.

Visit Puerto Rico – Blissful beaches to suit any taste

The idyllic Island packed with hidden gems, luxury escapes and modern culture

Visit Puerto Rico – Adventure in El Yunque rainforest

Located on the east side of Puerto Rico, El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest Service and is a rugged heart of adventure in Puerto Rico. The abundant natural area is extremely biodiverse with 240 species of lush trees and bushes, along with bountiful waterfalls, rivers, creeks, and streams. A multitude of hiking routes guide adventurers through the rainforest, with dips in cooling natural pools along the way. El Angelito is a popular action-packed route, with a 4km hike that rewards visitors with a lagoon rope-swing at the end. Ziplining amongst the green canopies and chirpy parrots is also highly recommended for nature loving, thrill seekers!



With nearly 300 beaches and 270 miles of Caribbean coastline, sunseekers are spoiled for choice in Puerto Rico. A world-renowned beach heralded as one of the best in the Caribbean, Flamenco Beach on Culebra Island extends for a mile and is framed by dramatic hills and tropical palm trees, with peaceful turquoise waters ideal for snorkelling. Domes Beach, on the northwest tip of Puerto Rico, is a surfer's paradise and welcomes a number of international surf competitions throughout the year. Famed for its waves, Domes Beach offers thrilling surfs in winter when waves are at their biggest. For sheer beauty, Mar Chiquita, which translates to *Little Sea*, is unquestionably unmissable. The awe-inspiring spot is a natural pool with azure waters and intimate beach, protected from the Atlantic sea by two limestone outcroppings. A firm favourite on the Island, Mar Chiquita is an Instagrammer's paradise.



Visit Puerto Rico – A Caribbean hotbed of culture, art and history in San Juan

Puerto Rico's charming capital, San Juan, is one of the Caribbean's most exciting and historic cities, celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. Few landmarks represent Puerto Rico's legacy within the Caribbean and the Americas quite as well as El Morro, an epic fortress built in 1533, that transports visitors back in time. Seamlessly balancing the old with the new, San Juan's Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, is one of the largest art institutions in the Caribbean, housing contemporary art from Caribbean and Latin American and is a must-visit for culture vultures. Music lovers will also be drawn to the capital, where the streets come alive to the sounds of bomba, reggaeton, salsa, merengue, and Latin pop. La Placita is a local hotspot for dancing and socialising, with bars and restaurants that spill into a lively main square, creating a melting pot of live music beats.

Visit Puerto Rico – Wildlife in abundance in Guanica Dry Forest and El Yunque

Although small in size, Puerto Rico's wildlife offering is anything but! The tropical climate makes it a hive of activity for endemic birds, singing frogs and rare reptiles. In the remote Guanica Dry Forest, near-extinct plants thrive in the forest's dry conditions and attract over 130 different species of birds. Nine of Puerto Rico's endemic bird species can be found here, including the prehistoric Puerto Rican nightjar. With as little as 1,500 in existence, to spot a nightjar is the ultimate twitchers prize. The El Yunque rainforest is another wildlife hotspot, welcoming hundreds of species who prefer wetter environments. Thirteen different species of coquí frog, the characteristically vocal tree frog, can be seen clambering up trees or taking shelter on the forest floor, whilst fascinating reptiles such as worm lizards, skinks and galliwasp dart across the jungle.

Visit Puerto Rico – Golf courses galore



Home to several award-winning courses each set against a stunning backdrop, Puerto Rico is the perfect place for golf aficionados. Golfers can take their pick from just shy of 30 golf courses across the Island including greens with cliffside ocean views on the west coast, or bunkers with the backdrop of El Yunque rainforest at the Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve's Championship Course. Coco Beach, where the 2019 PGA TOUR Puerto Rico Open was hosted, is also an Island hotspot, and Bahia Beach Resort's 18-hole fairway is renowned for its perfectly nuanced layout designed by expert architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. The variety of courses on offer cater to every type of player, from novice to pros, and a range of prince points. Combined with expert design and unparalleled picturesque views, it's no surprise the Island is known as the golf capital of the Caribbean.

Visit Puerto Rico – Luxury Caribbean coastal escapes

To unwind after a day on the golf course, travellers can head back to one of the island's sumptuous hotels and relax in laidback luxury. Isla Verde is Puerto Rico's premier beach destination, and with close proximity to the heart of San Juan and crystal clear Caribbean sea views, the palm tree lined haven is home to many luxury hotel hideaways. In particular, the Ritz-Carlton San Juan is one of the most incomparable luxury resorts on the Island. The hotel boasts a two-mile stretch of golden sand, pools aplenty, exquisite dining options and a soothing spa. Also in San Juan, the Caribe Hilton is another iconic hotel, famously known as the home of the Piña Colada, Puerto Rico's national drink. In 1954 the hotel's barman, Ramón 'Monchito' Marrero, created the cocktail to capture the essence of the Island in a glass, and the original recipe is still served at the property today.

Visit Puerto Rico – Sustainable initiatives and cultural immersion for all

With such a diverse landscape, it's only natural that Puerto Rican locals take care of the destination's delicate ecosystems, which visitors can support through local sustainable initiatives whilst on their trip. In San Juan, where beaches nestle against a vibrant cityscape, travellers can help protect the habitats of endangered sea turtles by working to repair and preserve natural nesting areas on the city's beaches. Of course, Puerto Rico's local communities are also at the heart of the destination, and Loíza, a town just 20 minutes from San Juan, is a historic hub of Afro-Puerto Rican culture. Since Loíza is the birthplace of bomba, visitors can join locally-led dance workshops that not only provide fascinating insights into the area's rich history, but provide locals with the income needed to preserve and protect the town's cultural identity.

For more information, visit www.DiscoverPuertoRico.com

Visit Puerto Rico – Island hop to discover hidden gems

When most people think of Puerto Rico, they think of a singular tropical island. However, Puerto Rico is actually an archipelago, made up of many islands, cays and islets. While there is no shortage of adventure and discovery to be had on the eponymously named Island of Puerto Rico, by island hopping offshore, visitors will enjoy some of the country's incredible hidden gems. Vieques is the peaceful, unexplored island, where wild horses roam and the world's brightest bioluminescent bay can be found. Mosquito Bay's neon blue waters glow in the dark as millions of microorganisms, called dinoflagellates, light up at night when motion is detected. Heading out on a glass-bottomed kayak once the sun has set is the best way to experience the natural phenomena. Alternatively, Culebra Island is surrounded by barrier reefs, and the exquisite Carlos Rosario and Tamarindo beaches are an idyll for swimmers and snorkelers.



Noticias de Salud

Travels: Puerto Rico, the best kept secret in the Caribbean



Puerto Rico is packed with hidden gems - music fills San Juan's streets, rare endemic species await discovery in the El Yunque rainforest, thrill seekers can enjoy epic adventures surfing and ziplining, and luxury hotels line the stunning beach fronts. As an archipelago, Puerto Rico also offers a plethora of island escapes offshore for guests to visit tropical beaches and wildlife wonders. Below are the top experiences that make Puerto Rico the best kept secret in the Caribbean and highlight why it's the ultimate Island destination to visit in 2021...

Adventure in El Yunque rainforest

Located on the east side of Puerto Rico, El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest Service and is a rugged heart of adventure in Puerto Rico. The abundant natural area is extremely biodiverse with 240 species of lush trees and bushes, along with bountiful waterfalls, rivers, creeks, and streams. A multitude of hiking routes guide adventurers through the rainforest, with dips in cooling natural pools along the way. El Angelito is a popular action-packed route, with a 4km hike that rewards visitors with a lagoon rope-swing at the end. Ziplining amongst the green canopies and chirpy parrots is also highly recommended for nature loving, thrill seekers!

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Blissful beaches to suit any taste

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Luxury Caribbean coastal escapes

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Island hop to discover hidden gems

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Sustainable initiatives and cultural immersion for all

With such a diverse landscape, it's only natural that Puerto Rican locals take care of the destination's delicate ecosystems, which visitors can support through local sustainable initiatives whilst on their trip. In San Juan, where beaches nestle against a vibrant cityscape, travellers can help protect the habitats of endangered sea turtles by working to repair and preserve natural nesting areas on the city's beaches. Of course, Puerto Rico's local communities are also at the heart of the destination, and Loíza, a town just 20 minutes from San Juan, is a historic hub of Afro-Puerto Rican culture. Since Loíza is the birthplace of bomba, visitors can join locally-led dance workshops that not only provide fascinating insights into the area's rich history, but provide locals with the income needed to preserve and protect the town's cultural identity.

Publicado por Francisco Acedo en [21.4.21](#)



Etiquetas: Puerto Rico, turismo, viajes

No hay comentarios:

Publicar un comentario

11 experiences around the world in celebration of Earth Day

The notion of travelling responsibly stretches across a broad spectrum, from a traveller reducing their carbon footprint; to taking part in a destination's conservation initiatives; or staying at an eco-resort; to building relationships with the locals and learning about the community and its culture. There has never been a more important time for travellers, tour operators and destinations alike, to proactively work together and show that travel really is a force for good.

To celebrate Earth Day 2021, below are 11 experiences from across the world, enabling travellers to explore the very best of a destination whilst creating positive change for the environments and local communities. From conquering and conserving the Appalachian Trail in the U.S., which stretches all the way from Maine to Georgia, to caring for Colombia's incredible coral reefs - travellers will be spoilt for choice when it comes to deciding how they are going to make their next holiday a more responsible and impactful one.

Follow in the footsteps of rhinos with an anti-poaching team in
Namibia



When it comes to Africa's conservation, Namibia leads the way as it was the first country in the continent to incorporate conservation into its constitution and today, over 43% of the country's surface area is under conservation management. With the largest quotient in the world of free-roaming animals including the rare black rhino, lion and zebra, Namibia offers travellers endless opportunities to participate in wildlife conservation initiatives first-hand.

Those looking to immerse in the exhilarating realm of anti-poaching methods and challenges can prove themselves fearless during the 14-day "Rhino Rangers" programme located in the 7,600-hectare Zannier Reserve. Specifically tailored to emphasise the necessity of protecting threatened wildlife, Rhino Rangers invites those brave enough to join the anti-poaching unit on their patrols, master firearm skills, learn about navigation and tracking techniques and to discover the science of poaching itself. After getting to grips with the challenges of living and surviving in the bush during the day, Rhino Rangers can rest under Namibia's star-studded skies surrounded by the sounds of nocturnal animal activity.

www.namibiatourism.com.na

Conquer and conserve the Appalachian National Scenic Trail,
from Maine to Georgia USA



The Appalachian Trail is the world's longest hiking-only footpath, which roughly stretches across an impressive 3,500 kilometres and 14 states including Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia and more. Not only are travellers able to embrace the great outdoors by hiking across a world-class trail boasting jaw-dropping scenery, there are also a range of conservancy initiatives that travellers can take part in, allowing them to give back to the environments they explore. Volunteers have the choice to take part in a selection of different projects hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) team: from joining resource forums; or signing up to a bespoke five-day course focused on the Leave No Trace initiative; to booking a slot on one of the ATC's regular climate change events which are held in some of the trail's most scenic spots. Additionally, an experience along the Appalachian Trail has been heralded as life changing by many. On GoUSA TV series, *Trails & Trailblazers*, Jennifer Pharr Davis shares how the trail was a significant experience for her, enabling her to overcome issues relating to confidence, due to building relationships with both nature and other individuals she met along the way. For travellers who are passionate about protecting the great outdoors and yearning to roam free, then setting foot on the Appalachian Trail is a must.

www.visittheusa.co.uk

Care for coral reefs in Colombia

Incredible coral reefs can be found in Colombia's warm Caribbean and Pacific waters, but without protection, these natural ecosystems face disruption and damage. In partnership with diving companies, coral reef research organisation *Corales de Paz* offers diving experiences with purpose: divers not only observe incredible reefs but work to monitor and re-weave corals, as well as collect plastics from the ocean bed. During a field programme, visitors can spend four or five days taking part in meaningful dive projects that monitor, survey and analyse the health of precious coral reefs to provide crucial insights into the protection of Colombia's marine life. Reef repair sessions teach divers innovative coral gardening methods, in which corals are generated in nurseries and transplanted into reefs to repair damaged areas. Visitors become 'coral reef citizen scientists', meaning they are qualified to monitor and restore Colombia's coral reefs and record their findings in national and international databases. Under the leadership of experienced coral reef scientists, divers can explore areas such as Providencia where Colombia's healthiest coral reef, which is the second largest in the Caribbean, can be found. Divers continue to keep an eye out for the sharks and turtles who inhabit the area – a signifier of a healthy and prosperous reef.

www.colombia.travel/en

Indulge in art and eco-innovation in Vienna



Vienna is often regarded as the cultural hub of Europe, rich in history, music, art, culture and cuisine, but it is also one of the greenest cities in the world, housing a global hub for sustainability and innovation. It's only fitting therefore that the *Vienna Biennale for Change* returns this summer with sustainability at its core, under the motto 'Planet Love: Climate Care in the Digital Age'. Taking place from 28 May – 3 October 2021, the *Vienna Biennale for Change 2021* will see a number of highly-esteemed Viennese museums and galleries joining forces to shine a light on climate change and environmental protection, inspiring thoughts on how we can form a more sustainable relationship with the planet.

Visionary projects by artists, designers and architects will be showcased, with aims to spark imaginations, promote the vision of sustainable societies and economies, as well as offer innovative solutions for radical change. The Vienna Biennale was established with the recognition that Vienna is a modern centre for positive change and revolutionary ideas, so in the post-pandemic era, the city is more forward-thinking than ever before.

www.wien.info/en

Join a carefully curated ecotourism project in Rwanda



Rwanda's *Gishwati-Makura* protected reserve spans across 8,400 acres with lush mist-covered forests, primates, waterfalls and native Umushwati trees. However, *Gishwati-Makura* wasn't always so abundant: in the early 2000s, 98% of the woodland was diminished due to increased human settlement. The local community, with the help of the *Forest of Hope Association*, undertook a major restoration effort to bring the area back to health and rewild the forest. Today, eastern chimpanzees, golden monkeys and side-striped jackals roam freely throughout the vegetation, amongst dozens of varieties of bats, frogs and birds. Carefully curated ecotourism projects such as guided nature hikes, chimp and monkey tracking, bird watching and visits to the waterfalls have helped to fund conservation, whilst providing income and enrichment for the surrounding communities. *Gishwati-Makura* is living proof of the impact that communities can have when they pull together, put the planet first and work to restore landscapes.

www.visitrwanda.com

Discover majestic wolves at the Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve in Ontario



Deep in the Canadian forest, a three-hour drive from Toronto, visitors can discover the plight of grey wolves at the privately-owned 100,000 acre sustainable *Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve*. As an apex predator, wolves serve to keep the ecosystem in balance, but over the years hunting and environmental impacts on their habitat have threatened this majestic animal. The decline of wolf populations triggered the creation of the *Wolf Centre at Haliburton*, which aims to revive wolf pack numbers whilst educating locals and tourists alike about the importance of wolves within Ontario's ecology and to shift

perceptions. A resident wolf pack has lived in a seven acre enclosure within Haliburton Forest since 1993 and visitors may view the wolves from the Wolf Centre through one-way glass. The centre also contains exhibits which tell the story of wolves and separates fact from fiction. Visitors have the chance to hear a wolf pack howl on guided walks during the summer months.

www.ontario-travel.blog

Restore alpine forestry in Trentino, Northern Italy



The mountainous forests of Trentino, northern Italy, are a crucial part of the Dolomites landscape and an enormous part of local heritage. During a night of extremely bad weather in 2018, around four million cubic metres of trees were damaged or destroyed, proving devastating for mountain wildlife. The *Trentino Tree Agreement* was formed to enable the public to play an active role in restoring forests: each donation works to plant and protect at least one sacred tree in Trentino's mountain valleys, a strategy which has already helped to rejuvenate the region's woodlands. Forests are essential for life in Trentino: woodlands

absorb carbon dioxide, increase biodiversity, counteract soil erosion and provide shade and shelter for wildlife. Trentino also follows the golden rule of planting more trees than are used, so whilst hundreds of the region's mountain huts are made from local pine, the utmost care is taken to ensure that woodlands are sustainably managed and maintained.

www.visittrentino.info/en

Protect sea turtle habitats in Puerto Rico



Sandy beaches sit seamlessly alongside vibrant cities in Puerto Rico and the island's coastal capital San Juan is the perfect example. However, ensuring that there is a healthy balance between the city's innovative developments and essential natural conservation is crucial and something non for profit community organisation, *CRES*, is undertaking. Committed to restoring and conserving the city's delicate ecosystems, *CRES* works to improve the wellbeing of San Juan's Santurce area, which is home to endangered sea turtles. By reforesting the neighbourhood and providing better habitats for rare species

such as the leatherback turtle to live, visit or nest on the beach, *CRES* looks to protect them from the impacts of nearby city life. A one-day workshop with *CRES* allows visitors to help with reforestation efforts, as well as educating them on how best to treat Puerto Rico's city-side beaches.

www.discoverpuertorico.com

Hop on board England's first hybrid energy ferry with Wightlink, Isle of Wight



The Isle of Wight and its surrounding waters are one of just six UK destinations recognised as a *UNESCO Biosphere Reserve* and the Isle of Wight has consistently been praised for having such a strong tradition of environmental action. To support this tradition, *Wightlink*, the leading eco-friendly ferry service connecting the Island to the mainland, has invested £30 million in England's first hybrid energy ferry; *Victoria of Wight*, which combines battery power with a conventional engine to use 17% less fuel than the next largest ship on the route. Additionally, *Wightlink's* ambitious *Green Agenda* works to increase recycling, replace plastic cutlery and cups with sustainable alternatives, reduce food miles by buying from Island suppliers, clean water surrounding ports and monitor marine life as well as providing electric vehicle charging points at ports. *Wightlink* puts eco-initiatives at the heart of its operations, ensuring that the abundant island and its waters are protected and preserved at all costs.

www.wightlink.co.uk

Discover how plastic waste is being combatted on the island of Mauritius



The beautifully tranquil waters and oceans surrounding Mauritius make the island a paradise for tourists, but plastic waste is one of the biggest threats to natural ecosystems. To combat this, *Precious Plastic Mauritius* is a non-profit organisation that aims to create a recycling economy. After collecting plastic waste from beaches and mangroves, *Precious Plastic Mauritius* melts it down to create useful products like sports equipment, phone cases and chairs that are sold. The project employs locals in South-East Mauritius who have been affected by the pandemic and the *Wakashio Oil Spill*, providing vital income to the communities around Mauritius' Blue Bay. Since plastic is versatile, easy to shape and quick drying, *Precious Plastic Mauritius* can easily create new, creative products that actually monetise waste, whilst protecting the ocean and supporting locals all at once.

www.mymauritius.travel

Leave no trace in Arizona



Arizona's six diverse biomes range from desert to forest and from balmy to snowy, all in as little as 150 miles. To protect the state's spectacular landscapes, the *Arizona Office of Tourism* has partnered with *Leave No Trace* to encourage sustainable, respectful tourism. Following seven key principles, Arizona encourages visitors to leave areas just as they found them, with respect for wildlife, marked trails, and natural sites prioritised. An entire pillar of Arizona's sustainable tourism strategy is dedicated to fire

safety, since the natural lands are particularly vulnerable to wildfires. Visitors must closely follow safety regulations, stick to designated campfire areas and heed area restrictions, where parks are closed in order to protect the trees. With its abundance of natural beauty, visitor education and guidance is crucial for Arizona's preservation.

www.visitarizona.com

Puerto Rico, the best kept secret in the Caribbean

There's no secret that we love the Caribbean here at House of Coco magazine, it holds a special place in our heart.

[...]

There's no secret that we love the Caribbean here at House of Coco magazine, it holds a special place in our heart. From Barbados to Nevis, we've explored most of the islands and Puerto Rico was a place that we fell in love with instantly. Puerto Rico is packed with hidden gems – music fills San Juan's streets, rare endemic species await discovery in the El Yunque rainforest, thrill seekers can enjoy epic adventures surfing and ziplining, and luxury hotels line the stunning beach fronts. As an archipelago, Puerto Rico also offers a plethora of island escapes offshore for guests to visit tropical beaches and wildlife wonders. Below are the top experiences that make Puerto Rico the best kept secret in the Caribbean and highlight why it's the ultimate Island destination to visit in 2021...

Adventure in El Yunque rainforest

Located on the east side of Puerto Rico, El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest Service and is a rugged heart of adventure in Puerto Rico. The abundant natural area is extremely biodiverse with 240 species of lush trees and bushes, along with bountiful waterfalls, rivers, creeks, and streams. A multitude of hiking routes guide adventurers through the rainforest, with dips in cooling natural pools along the way. El Angelito is a popular action-packed route, with a 4km hike that rewards visitors with a lagoon rope-swing at the end. Ziplining amongst the green canopies and chirpy parrots is also highly recommended for nature loving, thrill seekers!



Blissful beaches to suit any taste

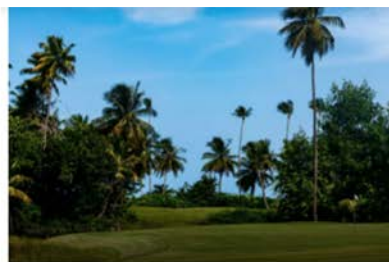
With nearly 300 beaches and 270 miles of Caribbean coastline, sunseekers are spoilt for choice in Puerto Rico. A world-renowned beach heralded as one of the best in the Caribbean, Flamenco Beach on Culebra Island extends for a mile and is framed by dramatic hills and tropical palm trees, with peaceful turquoise waters ideal for snorkelling. Domes Beach, on the northwest tip of Puerto Rico, is a surfer's paradise and welcomes a number of international surf competitions throughout the year. Famed for its waves, Domes Beach offers thrilling surfs in winter when waves are at their biggest. For sheer beauty, Mar Chiquita, which translates to *Little Sea*, is unquestionably unmissable. The awe-inspiring spot is a natural pool with azure waters and intimate beach, protected from the Atlantic sea by two limestone outcroppings. A firm favourite on the Island, Mar Chiquita is an Instagrammer's paradise.

A Caribbean hotbed of culture, art and history in San Juan

Puerto Rico's charming capital, San Juan, is one of the Caribbean's most exciting and historic cities, celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. Few landmarks represent Puerto Rico's legacy within the Caribbean and the Americas quite as well as El Morro, an epic fortress built in 1533, that transports visitors back in time. Seamlessly balancing the old with the new, San Juan's Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, is one of the largest art institutions in the Caribbean, housing contemporary art from Caribbean and Latin American and is a must-visit for culture vultures. Music lovers will also be drawn to the capital, where the streets come alive to the sounds of bomba, reggaeton, salsa, merengue, and Latin pop. La Placita is a local hotspot for dancing and socialising, with bars and restaurants that spill into a lively main square, creating a melting pot of live music beats.

Wildlife in abundance in Guanica Dry Forest and El Yunque

Although small in size, Puerto Rico's wildlife offering is anything but! The tropical climate makes it a hive of activity for endemic birds, singing frogs and rare reptiles. In the remote Guanica Dry Forest, near-extinct plants thrive in the forest's dry conditions and attract over 130 different species of birds. Nine of Puerto Rico's endemic bird species can be found here, including the prehistoric Puerto Rican nightjar. With as little as 1,500 in existence, to spot a nightjar is the ultimate twitchers prize. The El Yunque rainforest is another wildlife hotspot, welcoming hundreds of species who prefer wetter environments. Thirteen different species of coquí frog, the characteristically vocal tree frog, can be seen clambering up trees or taking shelter on the forest floor, whilst fascinating reptiles such as worm lizards, skinks and galliwasp dart across the jungle.



Golf courses galore

Home to several award-winning courses each set against a stunning backdrop, Puerto Rico is the perfect place for golf aficionados. Golfers can take their pick from just shy of 30 golf courses across the Island including greens with cliffside ocean views on the west coast, or bunkers with the backdrop of El Yunque rainforest at the Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve's Championship Course. Coco Beach, where the 2019 PGA TOUR Puerto Rico Open was hosted, is also an Island hotspot, and Bahia Beach Resort's 18-hole fairway is renowned for its perfectly nuanced layout designed by expert architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. The variety of courses on offer cater to every type of player, from novice to pros, and a range of price points. Combined with expert design and unparalleled picturesque views, it's no surprise the Island is known as the golf capital of the Caribbean.

Luxury Caribbean coastal escapes

To unwind after a day on the golf course, travellers can head back to one of the island's sumptuous hotels and relax in laidback luxury. Isla Verde is Puerto Rico's premier beach destination, and with close proximity to the heart of San Juan and crystal clear Caribbean sea views, the palm tree lined haven is home to many luxury hotel hideaways. In particular, the Ritz-Carlton San Juan is one of the most incomparable luxury resorts on the Island. The hotel boasts a two-mile stretch of golden sand, pools aplenty, exquisite dining options and a soothing spa. Also in San Juan, the Caribe Hilton is another iconic hotel, famously known as the home of the Piña Colada, Puerto Rico's national drink. In 1954 the hotel's barman, Ramón 'Monchito' Marrero, created the cocktail to capture the essence of the Island in a glass, and the original recipe is still served at the property today.



Island hop to discover hidden gems

When most people think of Puerto Rico, they think of a singular tropical island. However, Puerto Rico is actually an archipelago, made up of many islands, cays and islets. While there is no shortage of adventure and discovery to be had on the eponymously named Island of Puerto Rico, by island hopping offshore, visitors will enjoy some of the country's incredible hidden gems. Vieques is the peaceful, unexplored island, where wild horses roam and the world's brightest bioluminescent bay can be found. Mosquito Bay's neon blue waters glow in the dark as millions of microorganisms, called dinoflagellates, light up at night when motion is detected. Heading out on a glass-bottomed kayak once the sun has set is the best way to experience the natural phenomena. Alternatively, Culebra Island is surrounded by barrier reefs, and the exquisite Carlos Rosario and Tamarindo beaches are an idyll for swimmers and snorkelers.

Sustainable initiatives and cultural immersion for all

With such a diverse landscape, it's only natural that Puerto Rican locals take care of the destination's delicate ecosystems, which visitors can support through local sustainable initiatives whilst on their trip. In San Juan, where beaches nestle against a vibrant cityscape, travellers can help protect the habitats of endangered sea turtles by working to repair and preserve natural nesting areas on the city's beaches. Of course, Puerto Rico's local communities are also at the heart of the destination, and Loíza, a town just 20 minutes from San Juan, is a historic hub of Afro-Puerto Rican culture. Since Loíza is the birthplace of bomba, visitors can join locally-led dance workshops that not only provide fascinating insights into the area's rich history, but provide locals with the income needed to preserve and protect the town's cultural identity.

For more information, visit www.DiscoverPuertoRico.com

For more information on visiting Puerto Rico go to DiscoverPuertoRico.com or follow Discover Puerto Rico's social channels on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

Photos : DiscoverPuertoRico

The Best Beaches in Puerto Rico for Every Traveler




Isla Verde beach | © Michael Dwyer / Alamy Stock Photo



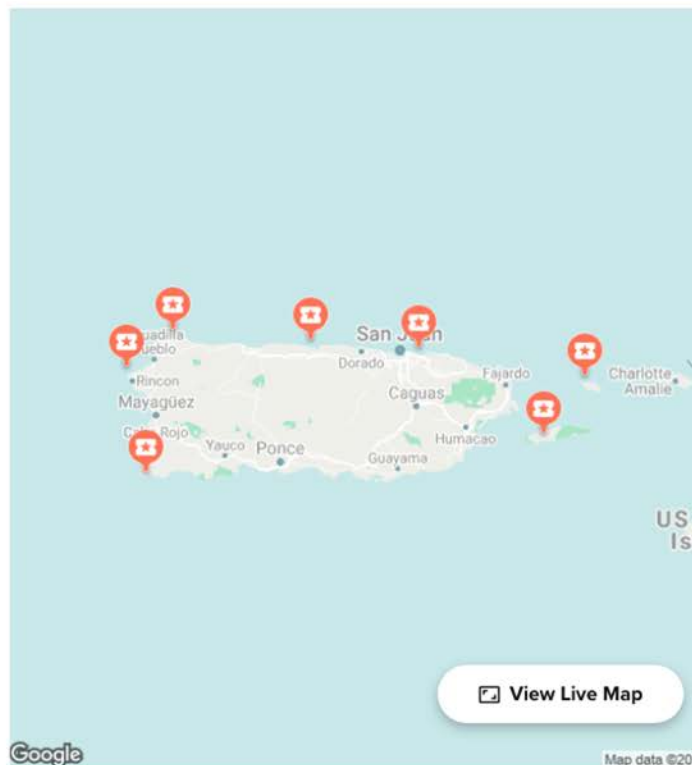
Cassam Looch 

Social Editor
27 April 2021



 Add to Plan

With 300 beaches and 270mi (435km) of Caribbean coastline, Puerto Rico is the perfect post-pandemic escape. From turtle-spotting to lapping up beachfront luxury, a sandy Puerto Rican retreat awaits every type of traveler.




Domes Beach

Natural Feature



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 Add to Plan



Domes Beach is on the northwest point of Puerto Rico | © Christian Ouellet / Alamy Stock Photo


Situated in the northwestern hub of Rincón, Domes Beach is one of the most famous surfing spots in the Caribbean. This year-round paradise is a hotspot for various competitions, including the famed Corona Pro Surf, where you can marvel at those brave and/or stupid enough to ride the incredible waves. If you prefer a slower pace, Domes Beach is also famed for whale watching during the winter. Migrating humpbacks pass by from January to March, and can be viewed from the historic Punta Higüero lighthouse or the surf.

Sucia Beach

Natural Feature



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La Playuela beach at Cabo Rojo wildlife preserve, Puerto Rico | © Richard Ellis / Alamy Stock Photo


La Playuela, commonly known as Sucia Beach, is a wild and isolated paradise. It's part of the Cabo Rojo nature reserve and has superb views of the surrounding landscape. If you're looking for an off-the-beaten-track adventure, you can find this crescent of white sand by following the pink Corozo salt flats on dirt track trails. With no hotels or oceanfront businesses in sight, the Cabo Rojo Lighthouse and limestone cliffs provide a perfect lookout where you can switch off from the rest of the world, before watching the sun disappear past the horizon.

Flamenco Beach

Natural Feature



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Flamenco Beach, Puerto Rico | © Kevin Galvin / Alamy Stock Photo


Flamenco Beach, located on Culebra Island off the coast of Puerto Rico, has been heralded as the second-most-beautiful beach in the world by The Discovery Channel. It extends for an entire mile, framed by majestic hills and tropical palm trees, and is famed for its calm turquoise waters. It's a haven for snorkelling, swimming and basking in the sunshine. Truly, it's a dream destination for future travels.

Black Sand Beach

Natural Feature



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Black Sand Beach (Playa Negra) | © Lori Barbely / Alamy Stock Photo


Ideal if you're looking to explore a hidden Caribbean gem, Black Sand Beach (also known as Playa Negra) is one of Puerto Rico's most dramatic and mesmerising spots. The beach is located on the south side of the island of Vieques, off the coast of the mainland. After following a short coastal trail, you'll be rewarded with stunning scenery and shifting volcanic sand on this remote, peaceful beach.

Mar Chiquita Beach

Natural Feature



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Mar Chiquita | © DaPaCon / Alamy Stock Photo


Along the north coast of Puerto Rico lie various beautiful natural pool beaches, and Mar Chiquita is unquestionably the most picture-perfect. Aptly translating to Little Sea, Mar Chiquita is a breathtaking half-moon cove, ideal for swimming and soaking up the sun before you take that flawless, Instagrammable snap. Being located just 45 minutes west of the bustling city of [San Juan](#) only affirms Mar Chiquita as a favourite, to the point where food trucks serve traditional Puerto Rican fritters and refreshing drinks on the weekends.

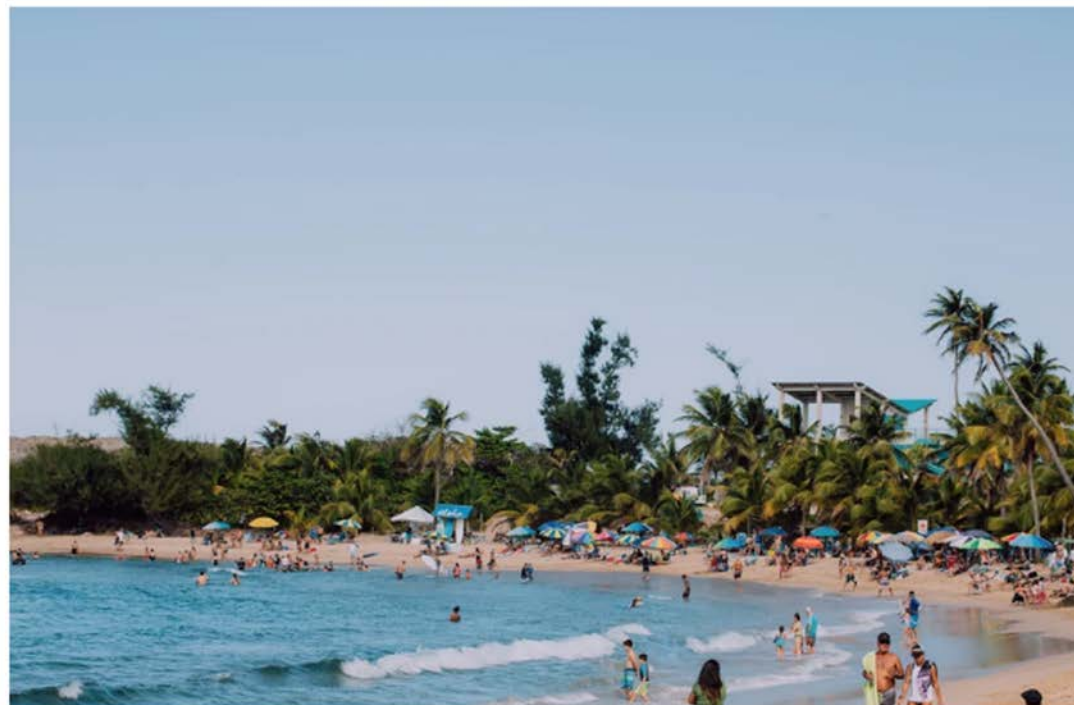
Jobos Beach

Natural Feature



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Jobos Beach | © Discover Puerto Rico


Jobos Beach is close to the town of Isabela and offers the ultimate beach experience with a classic Caribbean vibe. A local favorite suitable for all, from surfers to sunbathers, the palm-tree-lined hangout is a hotspot not to be missed. With plenty of beach bars, surf shacks and restaurants nearby, you will never be far from a piña colada or a tasty catch-of-the-day at Jobos Beach.

Isla Verde

Natural Feature



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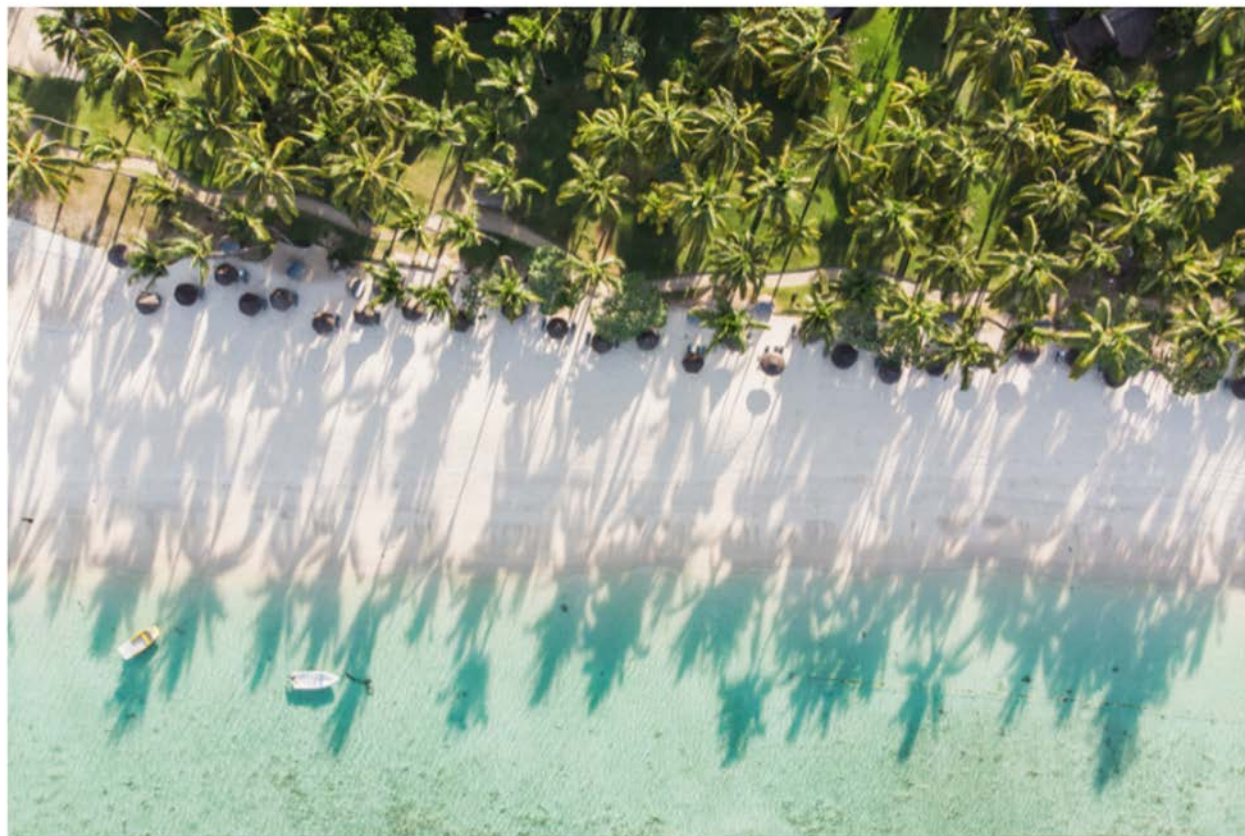


Isla Verde beach | © Michael Dwyer / Alamy Stock Photo

Isla Verde is the premier beach destination for families. Its golden-sand shores are divided into three main beaches, all beautifully lined with luscious palm trees: Pine Grove, Alambique and Carolina. Each one has an array of luxury hotels and restaurants, accommodating both day and night. If you're seeking a taste of luxury, Carolina Beach is home to the Fairmont El San Juan Hotel, Ritz-Carlton San Juan and Courtyard by Marriott Beach Resort. The resorts are unbeatable if you're after a city-slick beach holiday post-lockdown, thanks to their close proximity to the heart of San Juan.



11 GREEN EXPERIENCES AROUND THE WORLD



Flic En Flac Beach, Mauritius - Image by Teodor Kuduschiev

As the UK emerges out of lockdown, travellers are eager to know how they can travel smarter and greener than ever before.

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has now called for a "responsible recovery of the tourism sector" in order to "balance the needs of people, the planet and prosperity." The notion of travelling responsibly stretches across a broad spectrum, from a traveller reducing their carbon footprint; to taking part in a destination's conservation initiatives; or staying at an eco-resort; to building relationships with the locals and learning about the community and its culture. There has never been a more important time for travellers, tour operators and destinations alike, to proactively work together and show that travel really is a force for good.

To celebrate Earth Day 2021, below are 11 experiences from across the world, enabling travellers to explore the very best of a destination whilst creating positive change for the environments and local communities. From conquering and conserving the Appalachian Trail in the U.S., which stretches all the way from Maine to Georgia, to caring for Colombia's incredible coral reefs - travellers will be spoilt for choice when it comes to deciding how they are going to make their next holiday a more responsible and impactful one.

Follow in the footsteps of rhinos with an anti-poaching team in Namibia

When it comes to Africa's conservation, Namibia leads the way as it was the first country in the continent to incorporate conservation into its constitution and today, over 43% of the country's surface area is under conservation management. With the largest quotient in the world of free-roaming animals including the rare black rhino, lion and zebra, Namibia offers travellers endless opportunities to participate in wildlife conservation initiatives first-hand. Those looking to immerse in the exhilarating realm of anti-poaching methods and challenges can prove themselves fearless during the 14-day "Rhino Rangers" programme located in the 7,600-hectare Zannier Reserve. Specifically tailored to emphasise the necessity of protecting threatened wildlife, Rhino Rangers invites those brave enough to join the anti-poaching unit on their patrols, master firearm skills, learn about navigation and tracking techniques and to discover the science of poaching itself. After getting to grips with the challenges of living and surviving in the bush during the day, Rhino Rangers can rest under Namibia's star-studded skies surrounded by the sounds of nocturnal animal activity.



Indulge in art and eco-innovation in Vienna

Vienna is often regarded as the cultural hub of Europe, rich in history, music, art, culture and cuisine, but it is also one of the greenest cities in the world, housing a global hub for sustainability and innovation. It's only fitting therefore that the [Vienna Biennale for Change](#) returns this summer with sustainability at its core, under the motto 'Planet Love: Climate Care in the Digital Age'. Taking place from 28 May – 3 October 2021, the Vienna Biennale for Change 2021 will see a number of highly-esteemed Viennese museums and galleries joining forces to shine a light on climate change and environmental protection, inspiring thoughts on how we can form a more sustainable relationship with the planet. Visionary projects by artists, designers and architects will be showcased, with aims to spark imaginations, promote the vision of sustainable societies and economies, as well as offer innovative solutions for radical change. The Vienna Biennale was established with the recognition that Vienna is a modern centre for positive change and revolutionary ideas, so in the post-pandemic era, the city is more forward-thinking than ever before.



© WienTourismus, Christian Stemper

Conquer and conserve the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, from Maine to Georgia USA

The [Appalachian Trail](#) is the world's longest hiking-only footpath, which roughly stretches across an impressive 3,500 kilometres and 14 states including Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia and more. Not only are travellers able to embrace the great outdoors by hiking across a world-class trail boasting jaw-dropping scenery, there are also a range of conservancy initiatives that travellers can take part in, allowing them to give back to the environments they explore. Volunteers have the choice to take part in a selection of different projects hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) team: from joining resource forums; or signing up to a bespoke five-day course focused on the [Leave No Trace](#) initiative; to booking a slot on one of the ATC's regular climate change events which are held in some of the trail's most scenic spots. Additionally, an experience along the Appalachian Trail has been heralded as life changing by many. On [GoUSA TV's](#) series, [Trails & Trailblazers](#), Jennifer Pharr Davis shares how the trail was a significant experience for her, enabling her to overcome issues relating to confidence, due to building relationships with both nature and other individuals she met along the way. For travellers who are passionate about protecting the great outdoors and yearning to roam free, then setting foot on the Appalachian Trail is a must.



Image credit: VTC

Join a carefully curated ecotourism project in Rwanda

Rwanda's Gishwati-Makura protected reserve spans across 8,400 acres with lush mist-covered forests, primates, waterfalls and native Umushwati trees. However, Gishwati-Makura wasn't always so abundant: in the early 2000s, 98% of the woodland was diminished due to increased human settlement. The local community, with the help of the Forest of Hope Association, undertook a major restoration effort to bring the area back to health and rewild the forest. Today, eastern chimpanzees, golden monkeys and side-striped jackals roam freely throughout the vegetation, amongst dozens of varieties of bats, frogs and birds. Carefully curated ecotourism projects such as guided nature hikes, chimp and monkey tracking, bird watching and visits to the waterfalls have helped to fund conservation, whilst providing income and enrichment for the surrounding communities. Gishwati-Makura is living proof of the impact that communities can have when they pull together, put the planet first and work to restore landscapes.



Care for coral reefs in Colombia

Incredible coral reefs can be found in Colombia's warm Caribbean and Pacific waters, but without protection, these natural ecosystems face disruption and damage. In partnership with diving companies, coral reef research organisation [Corales de Paz](#) offers diving experiences with purpose: divers not only observe incredible reefs but work to monitor and re-weave corals, as well as collect plastics from the ocean bed. During a field programme, visitors can spend four or five days taking part in meaningful dive projects that monitor, survey and analyse the health of precious coral reefs to provide crucial insights into the protection of Colombia's marine life. Reef repair sessions teach divers innovative coral gardening methods, in which corals are generated in nurseries and transplanted into reefs to repair damaged areas. Visitors become 'coral reef citizen scientists', meaning they are qualified to monitor and restore Colombia's coral reefs and record their findings in national and international databases. Under the leadership of experienced coral reef scientists, divers can explore areas such as Providencia where Colombia's healthiest coral reef, which is the second largest in the Caribbean, can be found. Divers continue to keep an eye out for the sharks and turtles who inhabit the area – a signifier of a healthy and prosperous reef.



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THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE CARIBBEAN



Mar Chiquita - DiscoverPuertoRico

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El Yunque - DiscoverPuertoRico

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Domes Beach - DiscoverPuertoRico

A Caribbean hotbed of culture, art and history in San Juan

Puerto Rico's charming capital, San Juan, is one of the Caribbean's most exciting and historic cities, celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. Few landmarks represent Puerto Rico's legacy within the Caribbean and the Americas quite as well as El Morro, an epic fortress built in 1533, that transports visitors back in time. Seamlessly balancing the old with the new, San Juan's Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, is one of the largest art institutions in the Caribbean, housing contemporary art from Caribbean and Latin American and is a must-visit for culture vultures. Music lovers will also be drawn to the capital, where the streets come alive to the sounds of bomba, reggaeton, salsa, merengue, and Latin pop. La Placita is a local hotspot for dancing and socialising, with bars and restaurants that spill into a lively main square, creating a melting pot of live music beats.



Parranda at Old San Juan - DiscoverPuertoRico

Wildlife in abundance in Guanica Dry Forest and El Yunque

Although small in size, Puerto Rico's wildlife offering is anything but! The tropical climate makes it a hive of activity for endemic birds, singing frogs and rare reptiles. In the remote Guanica Dry Forest, near-extinct plants thrive in the forest's dry conditions and attract over 130 different species of birds. Nine of Puerto Rico's endemic bird species can be found here, including the prehistoric Puerto Rican nightjar. With as little as 1,500 in existence, to spot a nightjar is the ultimate twitchers prize. The El Yunque rainforest is another wildlife hotspot, welcoming hundreds of species who prefer wetter environments. Thirteen different species of coqui frog, the characteristically vocal tree frog, can be seen clambering up trees or taking shelter on the forest floor, whilst fascinating reptiles such as worm lizards, skinks and galliwasp dart across the jungle.



DiscoverPuertoRico

Golf courses galore

Home to several award-winning courses each set against a stunning backdrop, Puerto Rico is the perfect place for golf aficionados. Golfers can take their pick from just shy of 30 golf courses across the Island including greens with cliffside ocean views on the west coast, or bunkers with the backdrop of El Yunque rainforest at the Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve's Championship Course. Coco Beach, where the 2019 PGA TOUR Puerto Rico Open was hosted, is also an Island hotspot, and Bahia Beach Resort's 18-hole fairway is renowned for its perfectly nuanced layout designed by expert architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. The variety of courses on offer cater to every type of player, from novice to pros, and a range of price points. Combined with expert design and unparalleled picturesque views, it's no surprise the Island is known as the golf capital of the Caribbean.



DiscoverPuertoRico

Luxury Caribbean coastal escapes

To unwind after a day on the golf course, travellers can head back to one of the island's sumptuous hotels and relax in laidback luxury. Isla Verde is Puerto Rico's premier beach destination, and with close proximity to the heart of San Juan and crystal clear Caribbean sea views, the palm tree lined haven is home to many luxury hotel hideaways. In particular, the Ritz-Carlton San Juan is one of the most incomparable luxury resorts on the Island. The hotel boasts a two-mile stretch of golden sand, pools aplenty, exquisite dining options and a soothing spa. Also in San Juan, the Caribe Hilton is another iconic hotel, famously known as the home of the Piña Colada, Puerto Rico's national drink. In 1954 the hotel's barman, Ramón 'Monchito' Marrero, created the cocktail to capture the essence of the Island in a glass, and the original recipe is still served at the property today.



Isla Verde - DiscoverPuertoRico

Island hop to discover hidden gems

When most people think of Puerto Rico, they think of a singular tropical island. However, Puerto Rico is actually an archipelago, made up of many islands, cays and islets. While there is no shortage of adventure and discovery to be had on the eponymously named Island of Puerto Rico, by island hopping offshore, visitors will enjoy some of the country's incredible hidden gems. Vieques is the peaceful, unexplored island, where wild horses roam and the world's brightest bioluminescent bay can be found. Mosquito Bay's neon blue waters glow in the dark as millions of microorganisms, called dinoflagellates, light up at night when motion is detected. Heading out on a glass-bottomed kayak once the sun has set is the best way to experience the natural phenomena. Alternatively, Culebra Island is surrounded by barrier reefs, and the exquisite Carlos Rosario and Tamarindo beaches are an idyll for swimmers and snorkelers.



Wild horses in Vieques - DiscoverPuertoRico

Sustainable initiatives and cultural immersion for all

With such a diverse landscape, it's only natural that Puerto Rican locals take care of the destination's delicate ecosystems, which visitors can support through local sustainable initiatives whilst on their trip. In San Juan, where beaches nestle against a vibrant cityscape, travellers can help protect the habitats of endangered sea turtles by working to repair and preserve natural nesting areas on the city's beaches. Of course, Puerto Rico's local communities are also at the heart of the destination, and Loíza, a town just 20 minutes from San Juan, is a historic hub of Afro-Puerto Rican culture. Since Loíza is the birthplace of bomba, visitors can join locally-led dance workshops that not only provide fascinating insights into the area's rich history, but provide locals with the income needed to preserve and protect the town's cultural identity.



Street Vendor in San Juan - DiscoverPuertoRico

For more information, visit www.DiscoverPuertoRico.com